

MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Tuesday, March 22, 2005 3:01 p.m. Room 307 House Office Building, Lansing

Representative Nitz, Chair, called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Representatives Nitz, Ball, Newell, Casperson, Stahl, Proos, Hune, Mayes, Spade, Kathleen Law and Sheltroun. (11/11)

Representative Stahl made a motion to adopt the minutes of the meeting of March 15, 2005, supported by Representative Law. No objections being offered, a unanimous ballot was cast to accept the minutes as presented.

The Chair laid HB 4108 before the Committee.

HB 4108 Mayes Torts; liability; immunity for farmers who use tank locks or dye additives to prevent anhydrous ammonia theft; provide for.

Representative Mayes reviewed the contents of the bill with Committee members. Sgt. Frank Williams, representing the Michigan State Police, answered questions with Representative Mayes and provided a presentation regarding methamphetamines and anhydrous ammonia.

Jim Byrum, representing the Michigan Agribusiness Association, and Scott Spelman, representing Royster Clark, also answered questions for the Committee regarding anhydrous ammonia.

Ron Nelson, representing the Michigan Farm Bureau, submitted a card indicating support for HB 4108.

Brad Deacon, representing the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA), spoke to the Committee in support of HB 4108.

Representative Spade made a motion to adopt HB 4108 (H-2), supported by Representative Stahl.

FAVORABLE ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Representatives Nitz, Ball, Newell, Casperson, Stahl, Proos, Hune, Mayes, Spade, Kathleen Law, Sheltroun. (11/11)

Nays: None. (0/11)

Pass: None. (0/11)

A sufficient number of members voting in the affirmative, the motion prevailed.

Representative Mayes made a motion to amend HB 4108 (H-2), supported by Representative Spade, as follows:

1. Amend page 2, line 9, after "state." by striking out the balance of the line through "as" on line 10 and inserting "In addition to any other practices included, the AASSPs shall provide that both of the following, either separately or in combination as the commission determines advisable, constitute".

2. Amend page 2, line 12, after "(a)" by striking out "In" and inserting "Storage in".

3. Amend page 2, line 14, after "(b)" by striking out "with" and inserting "Storage with".

FAVORABLE ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Representatives Nitz, Ball, Newell, Casperson, Stahl, Proos, Hune, Mayes, Spade, Kathleen Law, Sheltroun. (11/11)

Nays: None. (0/11)

Pass: None. (0/11)

A sufficient number of members voting in the affirmative, the motion prevailed.

Representative Ball made a motion to amend HB 4108 (H-2), supported by Representative Mayes, as follows:

1. Amend page 2, line 13, after "lock" by inserting "that is used at all times except when the seller or end user is taking anhydrous ammonia from the tank or filling the tank".

FAVORABLE ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Representatives Nitz, Ball, Newell, Casperson, Stahl, Proos, Hune, Mayes, Spade, Kathleen Law, Sheltroun. (11/11)

Nays: None. (0/11)

Pass: None. (0/11)

A sufficient number of members voting in the affirmative, the motion prevailed.

Representative Mayes made a motion to report HB 4108 (H-3) with recommendation, supported by Representative Casperson.

FAVORABLE ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Representatives Nitz, Ball, Newell, Casperson, Stahl, Proos, Hune, Mayes, Spade, Kathleen Law, Sheltroun. (11/11)

Nays: None. (0/11)

Pass: None. (0/11)

A sufficient number of members voting in the affirmative, the motion prevailed.

The Chair laid HB 4260 before the Committee.

HB 4260 Hune Gaming; horse racing; money from uncashed winning tickets;
 revise distribution of.

Representative Hune outlined the contents of the bill for Committee members.

The following individuals spoke to the Committee regarding HB 4260:

Henry Vaupel, DVM, representing the Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association, in support

Nancy Corrion, representing the Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association, in support

James McNutt, representing the Northern Michigan Fair & Racing Association, in opposition

Brad Deacon, representing the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA), in opposition

Terry VanderVeen, representing the Michigan Horsemen's Benevolent Protection Association, in support

Cards for HB 4260 were submitted by:

Kevin McKinney, representing the Great Lakes Quarterhorse Association, in support

E. J. Brown, representing the Michigan Association of Fairs and Exhibitions, in opposition

Subsequent to questions and discussion, Chair Nitz announced that a vote on HB 4260 would take place at a future meeting of the Committee.

There being no additional business before the Committee, Chair Nitz declared the meeting adjourned, the time being 4:06 p.m.

Representative Neal Nitz, Chair

Catherine Petroskey, Committee Clerk
(517) 373-8538